



DOG CATCHERS

Animal activists urge authorities to initiate action against those who violated norms by illegally relocating 22 dogs from DRDO complex

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BUDGET RUSH

Most projects listed out for Bengaluru seem to be ongoing works or old plans; social media ban, new rehab centre, LNG tax cut and other highlights

PAGE 6&7

Efforts put in mass media campaign against speeding seem to have worked — in 3 months, 9.4 kmph drop in average vehicle speeds, reduction of 13 fatalities, jump in enforcement noted

LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE

38% of those who saw the campaign said they tried to persuade others not to speed

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Karnataka's latest anti-speeding drive seems to have paid off. Here are the results after the mass media campaign: A sharp 9.4 kmph drop in average vehicle speeds, a reduction of 13 fatalities, and a jump in enforcement action.

The state government released the evaluation report of its campaign, 'Motorcycle Reconstruction', showing that pairing evidence-based communication with strong enforcement can bring measurable improvements in road safety.

The study was conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), supported by Vital Strategies, under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS).

The Karnataka State Road Safety Authority (KSRSa), with technical support from Vital Strategies, implemented the state-wide mass media campaign in November 2024 for three months.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>



“Post-campaign knowledge of speed limits increased significantly, from 25.8% in 2024 to 30% in 2025—a rise of 4.2 percentage points, which means that the message has been drilled down into a significant section of road users

—Dr. Gautham M Sukumar, NIMHANS

...And still counting

Just over 7 lakh trees enumerated so far, tree census may miss its March deadline too?



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Bengaluru's tree census is once again set to miss its deadline, raising concerns among city-based environmentalists and activists eagerly waiting for the outcome.

According to the Greater Bengaluru Authority, so far, a little over 7 lakh trees across the city have been enumerated. While most of the census work in GBA-owned areas is completed, trees on private lands and defence campuses are yet to be counted.

"We have enumerated nearly 7.2 lakh trees across all eight areas of interest demarcated for the census. We are nearing completion with regard to trees standing in GBA-owned areas. However, private land and defence campuses are yet to be covered. We have raised a request, but yet to get clarity. If trees on all private land and defence campuses are enumerated, we estimate that the number will go up to around 15 lakh," said a GBA official.

For the census process, Bengaluru was divided into eight areas of interest — Yelahanka, Dasarahalli, RR Nagar, Mahadevpura, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru West, and Bengaluru East.

So far, the largest number of trees

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Ancient meets modern

Experience the sublime melodies of the santoor with Rahul Sharma leading a 35-piece chamber orchestra conducted by Samuel Tamarit Otero of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice.

Where: Maanikya Hall, Jayamahall Main Road;
When: March 18, 8 pm



02 Gentle pause

ArtFlute presents an online exhibition this Women's Day exploring rest as presence, listening, and intuitive making by contemporary Indian artists.

Where: ArtFlute Online Gallery (www.artflute.com)

When: March 13 to April 10



03 Sacred sounds

Jagriti Theatre hosts Morning Raag with Krithika Sreenivasan at Lumbini. Titled Voices of the Sacred: The Bhakti Continuum, the baithak-style concert explores women-led Bhakti poetry across Carnatic, Hindustani and folk traditions, with flute by Samarth Hegde and tabla by Karthik Bhat.

Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield;
When: March 8, 7.30 am

04 Creative carnival

The immersive festival features messy art and wet-on-wet painting, a community choir with Bangalore Flash Jam, theatre by Goshtarang, Gond art with Studio Tvastra, pottery by Passionfruit Pottery, and storytelling and music workshops by Sparklesound, alongside origami, flower pounding art and curated film screenings. Entry is ₹600.

Where: Eklavya School, Yelahanka;
When: March 8, 9.30 am to 1 pm

05 T20 final live

Catch India vs New Zealand at top Bangalore venues offering immersive screens, buzzing crowds, craft brews, and match-night menus.

Where: Gladia (Sarjapur), Chin Lung (multiple locations), Oasis Microbrewery (Whitefield), Sector 144 (JP Nagar), Maize & Malt (Whitefield) **When:** March 8



Classrooms rebuilt, dreams refuelled

Major infrastructure overhaul transforms Kadugodi Govt PU College, giving students brighter classrooms and safer learning environment

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Kadugodi Government PU College in Bengaluru has undergone a major transformation, with the campus redeveloped into a modern and secure learning space aimed at improving the educational environment for students from economically weaker sections. The comprehensive redevelopment focused on rebuilding unsafe infrastructure, upgrading basic facilities, and creating a future-ready academic setting.

The college building, which previously faced issues such as damaged classrooms, leaking ceilings, and inadequate facilities, has now been restored and reinforced to ensure safety and durability. Classrooms have been redesigned into bright, well-ventilated spaces to create a better learning atmosphere for students. The flooring has been replaced to improve safety and longevity, while the campus has been fully weatherproofed to prevent leakage and structural damage. In addition to structural improvements, electrical systems, plumbing, and other essential utilities have been modernised to ensure reliability, hygiene, and efficient functioning. The campus has also been secured, landscaped, and beautified, creating a more welcoming environment for students, teachers, and staff.

The redevelopment project was carried out by Aahwahan



Foundation in partnership with NTT DATA as part of an initiative to strengthen government school infrastructure and improve learning conditions for students.

Highlighting the importance of quality infrastructure in education, Braja Kishore Pradhan said, "We believe that every child deserves access to safe, dignified, and inspiring learning spaces. I have always felt deeply that children studying in government institutions deserve the same quality of infrastructure as those in private schools. It has been my constant wish to see them learn in classrooms that are safe, well-equipped, and full of possibility. When a school has strong infrastructure, students can pursue their

The campus overhaul introduces improved classrooms, modern utilities, and better learning spaces for students studying in govt institutions

education without obstacles or disruptions, with confidence and focus. This transformation of Kadugodi Government PU College is not merely about rebuilding walls, it is about restoring belief, nurturing aspirations, and opening doors to opportunities that every child rightfully deserves. When we strengthen a government school, we are not just upgrading a building; we are uplifting families, com-

munities, and the future of our nation."

Beyond infrastructure upgrades, the college has also been developed as a space that supports holistic growth. A fully developed auditorium and stage have been created to host academic events, cultural programmes, and leadership activities. Administrative and faculty spaces have also been redesigned to improve institutional efficiency and governance.

The organisation works with government schools nationwide to improve infrastructure in institutions serving underprivileged students. "Such projects will benefit thousands annually by improving learning facilities, attendance, retention and academic performance," he said.

Judge demands Google delete reports

A judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has approached the Karnataka High Court seeking the removal of certain online news reports and related search results from Google, claiming that the continued availability of the material has harmed his reputation.

Justice Ahmed Nawas has moved the Karnataka High Court seeking removal of old news reports that appear when his name is searched on Google. He claims the articles contain false, defamatory allegations and have harmed his personal and professional reputation.

When the matter was heard, the Karnataka High

Court issued notices to Google India and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, seeking their response. The petitioner was also directed to email notices to the publishers of the reports, including foreign websites. The case will be heard again later this month.

In his petition, Justice Ahmed Nawas said the reports, published between 2015 and 2020, remain accessible on Google despite legal notices seeking their removal. He claimed their continued appearance in search results has amplified the allegations and harmed his reputation internationally.

Justice Ahmed Nawas con-

tended the allegations are baseless and a serious attack on his integrity, saying their continued presence online harms his reputation and credibility built over years in the legal profession.

Justice Ahmed Nawas was approached the Karnataka High Court citing jurisdiction as Google's Indian office is in Bengaluru.

He has sought directions to remove or de-index links to the disputed reports, saying their continued appearance harms his reputation. The court will hear the matter again after responses from the parties. —BMB



Illegal stay, court orders deportation

The Karnataka High Court has ordered the release of two Nigerian nationals after finding that the police failed to comply with mandatory legal procedures during their arrest.

However, the court also directed that the two men be immediately taken into custody by immigration authorities and deported from India.

Justice M Nagaprasanna of the Karnataka High Court heard a petition by two foreign nationals who challenged their arrest by Sampige Halli police, claiming they were not informed of the reasons, violating their

constitutional rights.

They were arrested in May 2024 after police allegedly recovered 400 grams of MDMA and booked under the NDPS Act and the Foreigners Act. The court noted that informing an accused of the grounds of arrest under Article 22(1) is a fundamental right applicable to everyone, including foreign nationals.

The Karnataka High Court said informing an accused of the grounds of arrest is a vital safeguard against arbitrary detention.

Finding that authorities failed to do so, the court ruled the detention illegal and ordered the petitioners' release.

At the same time, the Karnataka High Court noted the two men had lived in India without valid documents for over a decade and directed that they be handed over to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office to begin deportation proceedings.

The Karnataka High Court also directed the State government to set up screening committees on cases involving foreign nationals and submit a compliance report within four months, stressing adherence to constitutional safeguards during arrests while allowing deportation of those without valid authorisation. —BMB



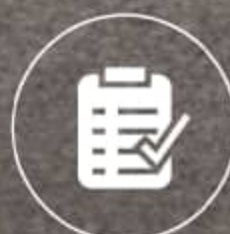
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22 dogs abducted, activists demand immediate justice

DRDO dog scandal unfolds as campus strays vanish, campaigners demand legal action, investigation, and immediate restoration to original grounds

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Animal activists have demanded that authorities stop the illegal relocation of 22 dogs from the DRDO campus. They alleged that stray dogs were caught and packed in plastic bags, causing pain and trauma to the animals.

The activists have urged authorities, especially the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BECC) and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), to stop the relocation and initiate action against those responsible for relocating more than 20 dogs from the DRDO complex in Sir CV Raman Nagar.

Expressing shock over the alleged violation of the law, Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, an animal activist, demanded that the Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences at BECC initiate action against those who violated norms by illegally relocating 22 dogs.

"This is no longer just a grievance; it is a documented criminal conspiracy and a barbaric violation of the law.

Twenty-two gentle and neutered dogs, which the Corporation itself spent resources to stabilise, have allegedly been abducted from the DRDO campus. The details are disturbing: dogs were incapacitated with forked sticks, their mouths and legs bound, and then sealed inside double plastic bags. This is not removal; this is premeditated cruelty.

We demand to know: who



Captured stray dogs allegedly tied and bagged during removal from DRDO campus



Disturbing images of tied, bagged dogs spark outrage. Authorities urged to investigate, prosecute, and recover all relocated strays immediately

authorised this? Who implemented it? And why is there a wall of silence regarding the whereabouts of these animals?" asked Priya Chetty-Rajagopal.

Stating that the illegal relocation of dogs is a direct violation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, she said it defies standing Supreme Court orders which mandate that dogs must be returned to their original location after neutering.

"Any official or contractor found

enabling this is liable for criminal prosecution, departmental inquiry and contempt of court. Indifference from the Solid Waste Management (SWM) department or other authorities does not grant them immunity; it makes them accomplices. I demand that authorities register an FIR immediately against the responsible parties, including the specific contractors and the DRDO Estate Management.

Authorities must also initiate a formal investigation to locate the missing dogs. If they have been

dumped in landfills or forests, they must be recovered and returned immediately," she said, adding that the BECC must issue a public statement clarifying that relocation is illegal and punishable.

Expressing concern over the fate of the relocated dogs, Smitha, a pet lover, demanded that authorities stop the relocation.

Another pet lover, requesting anonymity, said that more than 20 dogs had been relocated. "A disturbing video has surfaced showing workers in DRDO Phase 2 resorting to brutal and illegal tactics to round up stray dogs. The footage shows dogs with their mouths and legs cruelly bound with strings and then crammed into sacks like objects, a method that violates the norms," she said.

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Smoke nuisance Vijayanagar



Despite repeated requests, dry leaves continue to be burnt daily near the Vijayanagar Park swimming pool, causing concern among walkers and prompting a plea to the Pollution Control Board to intervene.

Filthy lot Jayanagar



The paid parking lot near Old Janata Bazaar in Jayanagar 4th Block has turned into a garbage dumping spot, leaving the area filthy despite motorists paying for parking.

Garbage pile Magadi Road



Garbage has been lying unattended for six days in front of the Saibaba Temple on Magadi Road, with residents alleging that there has been no response from the concerned authorities.

Police scrap age-old orderly system

The police have decided to discontinue the long-followed orderly system, a practice in which police personnel were assigned to senior officers for various personal and domestic tasks. The decision was formalised through an order issued on February 19 by Director General and Inspector General of Police MA Saleem, following directions from the state government to review and revise the system.

For decades, constabulary staff had been attached to senior officers as orderlies, often carrying out work unrelated to policing. These duties reportedly included cooking, cleaning, household errands and occasionally dropping officers' children home. With the revised directive, police personnel currently deployed as orderlies will be relieved of

such roles and reassigned to regular policing responsibilities. Officials said the objective is to ensure that trained personnel are utilised for core law enforcement duties rather than non-policing tasks.

As part of the transition, 373 follower or attendant posts have been created in the Civil Police. These posts will replace an equal number of similar positions in the Karnataka State Reserve Police. Until recruitment rules are finalised and appointments are made, attendants will be hired on an outsourced basis and paid according to minimum-wage norms. The order also caps the number of attendants allowed for senior officers and introduces a monthly allowance for officers who will no longer have police personnel assigned as orderlies.

-BMB

Timely police action saves man

In a heartwarming incident, officers from Mallechwaram Police Station helped save the life of a man who was determined to end it on the afternoon of March 5, 2026, on a railway track at Subramanyanagar.

According to officials, the family of the individual reached out to the police after he informed them that he intended to commit suicide on the railway track.

The 112 staff alerted Hoysala 94, which responded to the family's distress call and promptly reached the location within two minutes. On enquiring with the man, who was intent on ending his life that afternoon, the police found that he was under the influence of alcohol and mentally distressed due to ongoing personal problems, which had driven him to consume alcohol and attempt suicide.

Hoysala officers ASI Jagadesh SP, along with Constable Nijalinga, consoled the man, provided counselling and helped prevent the untoward incident. After ensuring his safety, the police handed him over to his family.

-BMB

Woman pulled out of deep pit

The Chandra Layout Police helped rescue a 56-year-old woman, identified as Sudha Parimala, who fell into a 25-foot-deep pit near a park in Nagarbhavi on the morning of March 6. Her son immediately reached out to the police for help, and Hoysala 61 reached the spot within four minutes and found the woman trapped.

According to officials, Sudha had accidentally fallen into the deep pit and was unable to climb out, leaving her distressed, disoriented and frightened. The officers sprang into action and traced her exact location by tracking her phone. By the time they reached her, she was exhausted and in a weak condition.

The police quickly carried out a rescue operation using a rope, which helped them pull the woman out of the pit. She was later taken to Aryan Hospital for medical treatment. The incident reflects the determination and swift action of the city police under the Safe City initiative, ensuring citizen safety remains the police's top priority.

-BMB



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Ongoing or previously announced projects dominate city infrastructure list

BUDGET DEJA VU

Long list of infrastructure announcements raises hopes, yet citizens question whether budget delivers real solutions to Bengaluru's worsening crises

For a city battling traffic chaos, flooding and battered roads, the infrastructure announcements in the budget presented on Friday by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah have triggered more questions than excitement. While the government listed several projects for Bengaluru, many appear to be ongoing works or previously announced proposals, prompting residents to question whether the worsening infrastructure crisis has received any meaningful push.

Road works

The budget notes that ward road and infrastructure development across five city corporations in Bengaluru is underway at a cost of 1,255 crore. White-topping of 158 km of roads costing 1,700 crore is in progress, while arterial and sub-arterial road works worth 1,936 crore are also being implemented. Over the next three years, more than 450 km of roads will be white-topped at an estimated 3,000 crore.

"This is not new. Every year we hear about white-topping and footpaths, but potholes return with the first rain," said Shankar Prasad, a resident.

Ring Road

The government has proposed to develop the Outer Ring Road stretch from Silk Board Junction to KR Puram Metro Station into a global-standard corridor at a cost of 450 crore. A 9 km pedestrian walkway along the Metro viaduct on ORR will also be constructed at an estimated 160 crore with support from the Outer Ring Road Companies Association. "Global corridor sounds good on paper, but we spend hours stuck on ORR everyday. People want solutions now, not another announcement," said Kavya R, an IT professional commuting from Marathahalli.

City funds

The government said it will continue the 7,000 crore annual grant for Bengaluru that was introduced last year. "The grant for development of Bengaluru was increased from 3,000 crore to 7,000 crore in 2025-26 and it will continue this year as well," Siddaramaiah said. City corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority are also expected to mobilise funds by issuing municipal bonds. "Money may be allocated, but citizens rarely see where it goes," said Indira Nagar resident Mohan Kumar. Trade activist Sajjan Raj Mehta said expectations were high and the focus should be growth, infrastructure and support for businesses.

Metro push

The budget promises completion of 41 km of additional metro lines during 2026-27, which the government says could benefit nearly 15 lakh commuters daily. Land acquisition is also progressing for the 73 km Bengaluru Business Corridor Phase 1. "Metro expansion is welcome, but 2026 feels too far away," said college student Rithika S.

Tunnel plan

Among the biggest proposals are the 40 km North-South and East-West tunnel road corridors connecting Hebbal to Silk Board and KR Puram to Mysore Road at an estimated cost of 40,000 crore under the BOOT model. Tenders have been invited for the first phase covering 17 km of the North-South corridor costing 17,780 crore. The Bangalore Development Authority will also con-



Infrastructure gaps persist across city despite multiple large budget allocations

struct a tunnel road and elevated road between Hebbal Junction and Mehri Circle. "Tunnel roads sound ambitious, but the city struggles to maintain existing roads. People worry whether this will become another long-delayed mega project," said resident and entrepreneur Aditya Rao.

Rail projects

Work is ongoing on the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project. Land acquisition has been completed for Corridor-2 between Benniganahalli and Chikkabanavara, while acquisition for Corridor-4 from Heelalige to Rajanukunte is underway. The government has allocated 500 crore this year and is targeting completion by December 2030. The Baiyappanahalli-Hosur and Yeshwanthpur-Channasandra railway doubling project costing 812 crore is also progressing. "2030 is a long wait. By then the city population will grow even more. We need faster execution," said Yeshwanthpur resident Nagesh H.

Future plans

The government also reiterated long-term planning initiatives such as implementing the Revised Master Plan 2041 by 2027 and preparing a Comprehensive Mobility Plan within six months. Srikanth Narasimhan, Founder, Bengaluru Navanirman Party said, "Bengaluru's 7,000 crore allocation shows intent, but it must balance essential needs against non-urgent projects. While Metro expansion and the Cauvery 6th Phase are vital, the 40,000 crore tunnel road raises fiscal and transparency concerns. For Bengaluru to truly thrive, the budget must prioritise common citizens and transparent spending."

The budget promises completion of 41 km of additional metro lines during 2026-27, which the government says could benefit nearly 15 lakh commuters daily

Alcohol content to decide Karnataka excise duty

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced that an Alcohol-in-Beverage (AIB) based excise duty structure will be introduced from April 2026 in Karnataka. This taxation system, widely regarded internationally as a standard model, levies duty based on the actual alcohol content present in beverages. The method is considered more scientific because alcohol content is viewed as the primary source of social and health-related externalities associated with alcohol consumption. The move forms part of a broader effort to modernise the excise framework in the state. The Karnataka Excise Act, which is more than six decades old, is currently under review as several of its provisions are no longer considered relevant in the present context. Over the past two years, the department has taken steps to improve transparency and efficiency. The validity of various excise licences has been extended from one year to five years, while the online approval process has been simplified from 16 stages to seven, allowing approvals to be issued within two days.

'Cine Mitra' platform to fast-track film permissions

In a move to transform Karnataka into a premier filming hub, the Chief Minister announced the launch of Cine Mitra, a single-window digital platform designed to streamline shooting permissions under one roof. The platform aims to simplify approvals for filmmakers and reduce delays during production. To support production houses, the government will create a Karnataka Film Location Digital Map costing 1 crore with details of tourist spots, historical monuments and scenic filming locations across the state.

Addressing the financial landscape of regional cinema, the Chief Minister said the traditional subsidy for quality Kannada films has been discontinued. However, the government cleared subsidies for a three-year block during 2025-26. To clear the remaining backlog and support filmmakers from previous years, a dedicated allocation of 20 crore has been sanctioned. The initiative signals a shift towards building a technology-driven camera-ready ecosystem that reduces bureaucratic delays and improves access to the state's heritage and landscapes.

State boosts anti-drug drive, prison rehab centre

Following repeated incidents of drug seizures in prisons, the Chief Minister announced the establishment of a dedicated Drug De-addiction Centre within the Bengaluru Central Prison. The initiative forms part of a broader 10 crore mission to strengthen the Anti-Narcotics Task Force and work towards making Karnataka a drug-free state. To reinforce the Home Department, a permanent Police and Police Auxiliary Services Recruitment Board will be established to conduct systematic and transparent recruitment. In addition, 75 crore has been earmarked

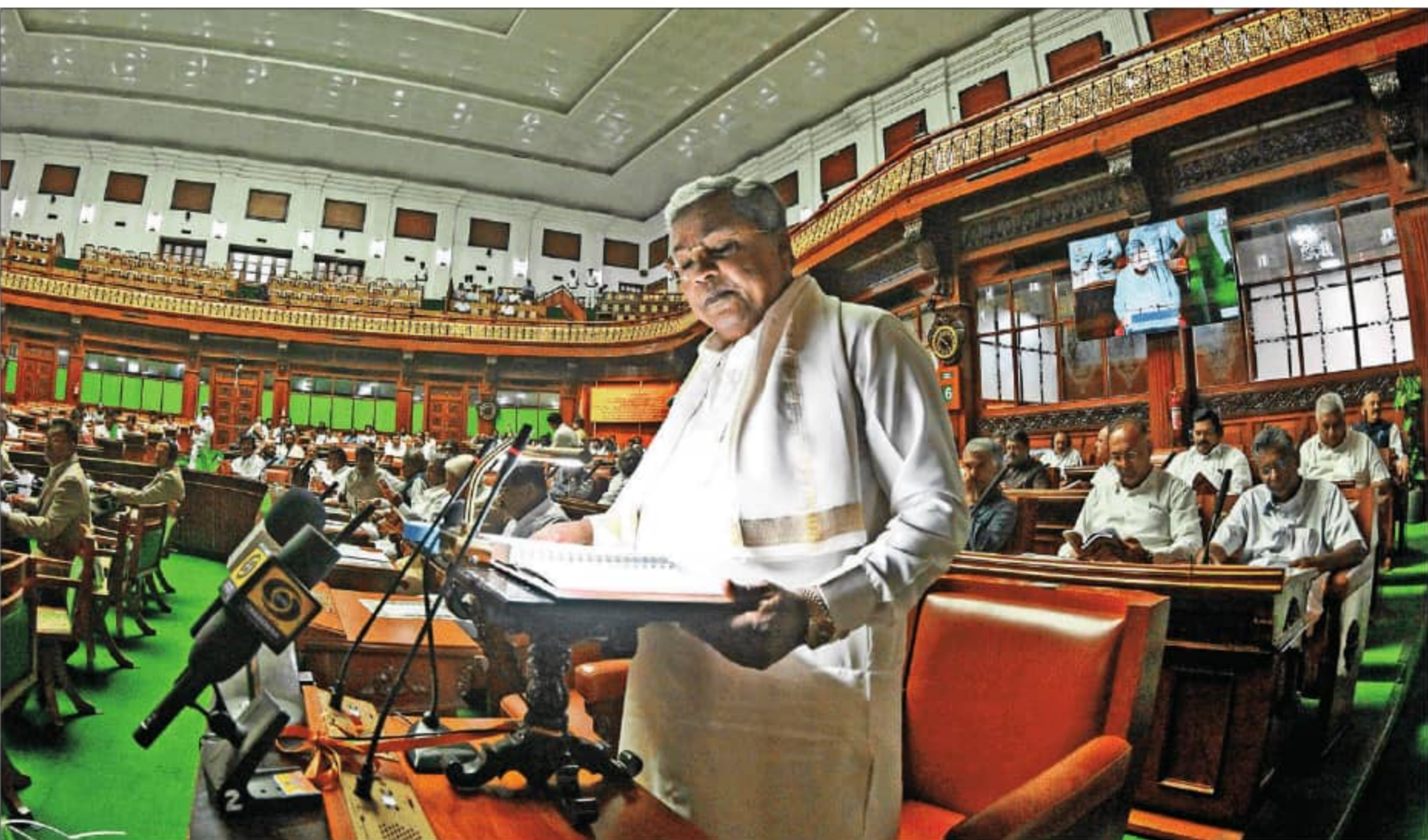
for the purchase of new vehicles to enhance surveillance and improve public security mobility.

To modernise city safety systems, an Urban Policing Innovation Centre will be launched in collaboration with corporate entities and the GBA through CSR funds. Addressing high-rise fire risks, the state will procure a specialised Aerial Ladder Platform capable of reaching 54 metres. The renewal period for Fire and Emergency Services clearance certificates for buildings has also been extended from two years to five years.

LNG tax slashed to 5%

In a push for environmental sustainability, the Chief Minister announced a reduction in Sales Tax on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from 14.34% to 5% to encourage its adoption in the industrial and transport sectors. The budget also proposes amendments to the Karnataka

Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Act, 1976. Enrolled persons who have paid their full annual tax will be exempt from filing annual returns, while those already exempt from profession tax will no longer need to submit any returns.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presents the 17th State budget for the year 2026-27 at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday

Only forgotten promises come ASHA workers' way

The Karnataka State Joint ASHA Workers' Association has expressed strong disappointment over the Karnataka State Budget 2026, stating that it failed to address key demands of ASHA workers across the state. Asha workers union pointed out that the budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah did not include any announcement regarding an increase in honorarium or welfare measures for ASHA workers. The union alleged that for the past three years, promises have been made to increase their honorarium, but no concrete steps have been taken.

Nagalakshmi from AIUTUC said, "Thousands of ASHA workers have been demanding a hike in honorarium, job security, and social security benefits, including pension. Despite repeatedly bringing these issues to the government's attention, the budget did not address their concerns."

The union also raised concerns about reports of ASHA workers being removed from

service in the name of "rationalisation," calling the move alarming and strongly condemning any attempt to exclude them from the public health system.

Highlighting their role, the association noted that ASHA workers play a crucial part in delivering maternal and child health services, vaccination drives, and health awareness campaigns from villages to urban areas. It added that their dedication was particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when they risked their lives to serve communities.

Nagalakshmi added, "We urge the state government to immediately increase the honorarium of ASHA workers, ensure job security, provide social security benefits including pension, and stop any move to remove them under the pretext of rationalisation. It warned that if the government fails to respond to these demands, ASHA workers across the state may be forced to intensify their protests."

Mirror To Budget

Several announcements made in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget on Friday echo issues and proposals that had earlier been highlighted in Bangalore Mirror. From urban infrastructure and water supply to campus elections and digital attendance systems, a number of ideas that appeared in the newspaper in recent months have now found place in the state's policy roadmap. Here is a look at some of the key measures that mirror what Bangalore Mirror had reported earlier.



December 29, 2025

CAMPUS POLLS

As earlier highlighted in Bangalore Mirror, student union elections will be reintroduced in colleges and universities to encourage leadership and democratic engagement among students.



January 3, 2026

GREEN LUNG

Bangalore Mirror was the first to report that around 153 acres at Madappanahalli in Bengaluru North taluk will be converted into a lung space and named the Cultural Leader Basavanna Biodiversity Park.



October 29, 2025

DISTRESS SUPPORT

It was Bangalore Mirror that first reported the statewide rollout of the 'Akkapade Vojana', which aims to provide timely protection and support to women and children in distress in coordination with the Home Department.



December 1, 2025

WATER PLAN

Bangalore Mirror had earlier reported on the proposed Cauvery Phase VI project, a Rs 6,939 crore plan with JICA assistance that aims to bring an additional six TMC of water to Bengaluru, which currently receives 2,225 MLD through earlier Cauvery phases.



February 18, 2026

AI ATTENDANCE

First reported by Bangalore Mirror, the government plans to roll out an AI-based facial recognition attendance system across Anganwadis, schools, colleges and hostels in the state. The digital system will track attendance and make daily beneficiary records publicly accessible.



August 11, 2025

SPORTS HUB

As first detailed by Bangalore Mirror, the Karnataka Housing Board will build an 80,000-seat cricket stadium and international-standard sports complex in Anekal taluk under the KHB Surya Kreedha Grama project.



December 1, 2025

DEMULA ACT

The State government has announced that a 'Rohith Vemula Act' will be enacted to prevent caste-based discrimination against students in universities across Karnataka. The proposal comes months after Bangalore Mirror had highlighted growing demands for a legal safeguard to address caste bias and harassment on campuses.

K'taka proposes social media ban for minors

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, during his budget speech, proposed a ban on social media use for children below 16 years to curb the adverse impact of rising mobile phone usage among youngsters. The proposal has triggered mixed reactions from educators, many of whom have welcomed the intent while seeking clarity on how it will be implemented.

Karnataka Associated Managements of Schools (KAMS) General Secretary Shashi Kumar D said the move is welcome but emphasised the need for a clear standard operating procedure. He added that a dedicated committee should be formed to examine practical aspects before the proposal is enforced.

Several educators have supported the proposal, arguing that unchecked social media exposure is affecting children's mental health. Dr Ted Mockrish, Head of School at the Canadian International School, Bengaluru, said social media platforms are designed to capture teenagers' attention and keep them engaged in continuous consumption. He said the concern is not digital devices themselves but the way young users are turned into commodities for profit. He added that global data increasingly links excessive social media use with rising teen depression levels.

FORM-IV (See Rule-8)

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Devanahalli emerges as Bengaluru's hotspot for premium plotted developments

With infrastructure projects picking up pace and the promise of long-term growth, Devanahalli is steadily transforming into one of the most sought-after destinations for premium plotted developments around Bengaluru.

Once seen primarily as the location of Kempegowda International Airport, Devanahalli has now become a magnet for investors and homebuyers seeking spacious plots and gated communities away from the city's congestion. Real estate experts say the area's improving connectivity and upcoming infra-



structure projects are driving strong demand for high-end plotted layouts.

Anand Kumar, a realtor, said the region is witnessing steady interest from professionals, NRIs and long-term investors who prefer plots over apartments. "Wide roads, organised layouts and the potential for future appreciation are among the main reasons behind the shift," he said.

"Buyer's today are looking for flexibility. With premium plots, they can build their own homes according to their needs instead of settling for standard apartment designs," said Ramesh Gowda, a Bengaluru-based real estate consultant. "Devanahalli offers larger land parcels and planned developments, which are becoming increasingly rare inside the city."

Developers too are launch-

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ing several premium plotted projects in the region, banking on the growth corridor created by the airport and upcoming commercial zones.

According to market observers, improved connectivity through highways and proposed infrastructure projects is making the area increasingly attractive for residential investments.

Industry experts believe plotted developments appeal to buyers because of their relatively lower density and better open spaces. Many layouts now offer clubhouse facilities, land-

scaped parks and security systems similar to large residential communities.

"People want a quieter environment but still want to stay connected to the city. Devanahalli offers that balance," said Kriti Nair, a property advisor. "Investors also see strong appreciation potential as the area continues to develop."

Local residents say the transformation is already visible, with new roads, residential projects and supporting infrastructure gradually shaping the landscape.

Prakash VL

Bengalureans eye farmland for leisure, returns

Investors looking beyond apartments and sites are increasingly turning to managed farmland with resort-style amenities. Buyers keen on growing commercial trees such as sandalwood, mahogany and teak in a green setting are also seeking fully developed farmhouses that double as weekend homes.

Developers say this blend of agriculture and leisure is emerging as a profitable option, with assured maintenance, plantation support and lifestyle facilities offered in a single package.

With improving infrastructure around Mysuru, including the upcoming Peripheral Ring Road and large-scale development projects, demand for



farmland along the corridor has risen sharply. Projects close to the proposed Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway and near the upcoming ring road are attracting strong interest from Bengalureans seeking peaceful weekend retreats that also promise returns.

According to developer K

Krishnappa, farmland parcels located just five minutes off the highway provide scope for cottage construction, managed plantations and resort facilities maintained by developers. Investors are promised benefits including crop cultivation, land appreciation and potential income.

BMB

New labour codes reshape real estate sector

The implementation of the Centre's four unified labour codes is beginning to reshape the functioning of India's real estate sector, bringing tighter compliance norms and clearer accountability.

The codes streamline laws related to wages, social security, occupational safety and industrial relations, while introducing a standard definition of wages that requires basic pay to constitute at least 50 per cent of total earnings.

For developers, this change translates into higher outgo towards provident fund and gratuity contributions, thereby increasing overall labour costs.

The reforms also expand the security framework to cover contract, gig and unorganised workers, a significant development for an industry that relies heavily on contractual labour at construction sites.

Workers are now entitled to benefits such as provident fund, insurance and maternity assistance, while employers must comply with enhanced reporting and documentation requirements.

The mandatory issuance of appointment letters is expected to formalise hiring practices by clearly defining wages, roles and working hours.

Industry stakeholders note

that the transition requires operational adjustments.

Construction sites must now adhere to stricter safety and welfare provisions, including sanitation facilities, protective equipment, medical support and regular health checks.

Fixed-term employees will also become eligible for gratuity after one year of service, placing them on par with permanent staff in certain respects.

"While these reforms strengthen worker protection and bring greater transparency, developers must rework contracts, registrations and compliance systems," said a city-based realtor.

BMB



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Kanakapura road gains real estate momentum

Kanakapura Road is fast turning into the real estate nerve centre of South Bengaluru, with premium residential sites witnessing strong demand. With the State government including Kanakapura under the Greater Bengaluru plan, layouts and plotted developments along the stretch and nearby pockets have become a preferred choice for buyers.

"Once seen as a quiet green belt, the corridor is now a prized investment destination driven by infrastructure upgrades, improved civic amenities and a growing cosmopolitan culture," said N. Narendraswamy, a realtor. Developers say that affordable options for the middle class, along with premium gated communities, have widened its appeal among a diverse range of homebuyers and investors.

The proposed Satellite Town Ring Road by the National Highways Authority of India is expected to further boost connectivity, linking the stretch to Ramanagara via Anekal and eas-



ing traffic congestion. The four-lane Kanakapura Road connects key neighbourhoods such as Jayanagar, Basavanagudi and Banashankari, and passes through JP Nagar 4th and 7th Phase, Kumaraswamy Layout and parts of Anjanapura Township.

"Proximity to Harohalli,

Bannerghatta Road, Konanakunte, Kaggalipura, Talaghattapura, Anjanapura and Electronic City has added to its investment appeal," said Niveditha Thomas, a realtor. Metro connectivity and access to IT hubs, malls and educational institutions have further strengthened its appeal. **BMB**

Siddaramaiah's budget pushes property deals into digital future

Announcements made by CM Siddaramaiah in Friday's state budget are expected to bring major changes to property transactions and the broader real estate sector in Bengaluru and across Karnataka. Siddaramaiah has proposed a new digital platform for e-stamping and end-to-end paperless property registration.

Under the plan, the entire process—from stamp generation and document writing to storage, retrieval and digital sharing—will be carried out online.

Real estate experts say the move could significantly reduce delays and improve transparency in property deals. Industry stakeholders believe the shift towards digital systems will simplify procedures for buyers, sellers and developers who often face long waiting periods at registration offices.

"A fully digital process



will help reduce paperwork and streamline transactions. This can improve buyer confidence and speed up property registrations," said a Bengaluru-based property consultant. As part of the initiative, 207 Sub-Registrar offices across the state will be digitised to preserve legacy property records created before 2003.

These older documents, currently stored in physical form, will be converted into digital records for long-term preservation and easier access. The government also plans to modernise one Sub-Registrar office in every district into a 'Registration Guarantee Centre'.

These centres aim to improve the experience for citizens who must visit the

office for mandatory verification during property registration.

In addition, five Mega Registration Centres with global standards will be set up through a public-private partnership model.

Officials say these centres will function along the lines of Passport Seva Kendras, offering organised services, faster processing and better infrastructure.

The reforms are expected to support Karnataka's growing property market while increasing revenue collections from stamps and registration. According to budget figures, the department collected ₹22,629 crore till February in 2025–26, marking a 12.3 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

For 2026–27, the government has set a target of ₹29,000 crore, with digitisation and improved infrastructure expected to further boost property transactions. **BMB**

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HPV vaccination rollout stalls as K'taka awaits detailed plan

Despite receiving 2.5 lakh doses, Karnataka delays full rollout while cervical cancer cases and deaths continue to rise steadily

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Even as the Centre has rolled out the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme to prevent cervical cancer, the drive is yet to begin in Karnataka. Though a symbolic vaccination was administered in Bengaluru at KC General Hospital on February 28, the state government is still working on the logistics before the full-scale rollout. Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the government has already received around 2.5 lakh doses from the Centre but is preparing a detailed micro plan for implementation. "We have received around 2.5 lakh doses. We have to work out the micro plan for the vaccination drive. Since the vaccine is for adolescent girls, it requires the consent of parents and the process has to be carried out at designated health facilities. We are working on it," he said.

Recent data presented in Parliament for the period 2021–2025 shows a steady rise in the estimated incidence of cervical cancer cases in Karnataka. The number of cases increased from 5,572 in 2021 to an estimated 5,712 in 2025. Mortality figures remain high, with deaths projected to rise from 3,009 in 2021 to 3,084 in 2025. These numbers place Karnataka among the states with a substantial cervical cancer burden, highlighting the urgent need for preventive measures such as vaccination and early screening.

At the national level, cervical cancer cases are also projected to increase gradually. The estimated incidence across India is expected



Laboratory blood samples prepared for HIV testing, underscoring the broader need for screening and vaccination to reduce virus-linked diseases

Karnataka grapples with logistics for HPV vaccination despite urgent need, as rising cervical cancer figures highlight importance of timely rollout, parental consent, and coordinated support from medical community

Top States by Estimated Cervical Cancer Cases and Deaths

State	Cases (2021)	Cases (2025 est.)	Deaths (2021)	Deaths (2025 est.)
Uttar Pradesh	11,054	11,530	5,969	6,226
West Bengal	6,300	6,437	3,402	3,476
Karnataka	5,572	5,712	3,009	3,084

ed to rise from 76,898 cases in 2021 to 79,239 cases by 2025. Mortality is projected to increase from 41,523 deaths in 2021 to 42,789 deaths in 2025. Cervical cancer remains one of the most common cancers affecting women in India, largely caused

by persistent infection with certain types of HPV. Health experts have repeatedly stressed that HPV vaccination, along with regular screening, can significantly reduce both incidence and mortality.

According to the Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare, the programme will target approximately 1.15 crore girls aged 14 years every year across all States and Union Territories. The vaccine will be provided free of cost at designated government health facilities. Vaccination will be conducted at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Primary Health Centres), Community Health Centres, Sub-District and District Hospitals as well as Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals.

Dr BS Ajaikumar, Doctorpreneur and Executive Chairman of HealthCare Global Enterprises Ltd, said, "This is a very positive initiative. Even at HCG Cancer Hospital, we are administering the HPV vaccine, and at Bharat Hospital and Institute of Oncology in Mysuru, which is a charitable institution, we have been doing it as well. So far, no significant side effects have been observed, and the vaccine is safe and well tolerated. Cervical cancer is already on a decline, and the ultimate goal should be its complete elimination."

Bangalore Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (BSOG) President Dr Mangala added, "At present, we are awaiting clear communication from the government regarding the rollout and supply of vaccines. Once the official guidelines and vaccine availability are confirmed, BSOG members and obstetrician-gynaecologists across the city will be ready to support the programme and administer the vaccines as per government protocols. Vaccination remains an important step in preventing several diseases, and the medical community is committed to working closely with public health authorities to ensure effective implementation."

Airport worker held for woman's murder

A 35-year-old woman was allegedly murdered and her body partially burnt in an attempt to destroy evidence in Devanahalli. Police have arrested an airport employee accused of killing the woman, who was known to him. According to police, the decomposed body of an unidentified woman was found on February 25 in a stormwater drain in front of a hotel. Investigation revealed that she had been strangled with a nylon rope. The body had been wrapped in a bedsheet and plastic tarpaulin, tied with rope, doused with petrol and set on fire in an attempt to conceal the crime.

Based on evidence collected during the probe, police later identified the victim as Nirmala, who worked at a private company at the airport. She had left her family and had been living alone in a rented house in Devanahalli for about two years. Police arrested the accused, Mounesh Maitri (34), on February 27. He allegedly killed her fearing his wife would discover their relationship. **-BMB**

Police detain 200 illegal residents

A special drive by the Bengaluru City Police to identify foreign nationals residing illegally in the city has led to the detention of 200 individuals over the past few days, officials said. The operation was launched following directions from the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner to gather information about illegal immigrants and initiate legal action.

As part of the drive, four special teams from the Central Crime Branch conducted an early morning operation on March 6 in areas under the limits of Kadugodi Police Station and Varthur Police Station. Police detained 124 Bangladeshi nationals, including 48 men, 42 women, and 34 children. **-BMB**

Disturbing parcel alarm at airport

A complaint has been registered at BIAL police station against a man for allegedly sending a disturbing parcel to the administrative office of Kempegowda International Airport. The package contained rotten tomatoes, decayed flower garlands, pieces of iron, used toothpaste covers, and nude photographs of men and women, creating panic among staff.

According to police, the complaint was filed by Manjunatha, an airport administration employee. The accused, identified as Bose Bodh Bandaranaike in the FIR, allegedly visited various locations within the airport between January 6 and January 22 and sent the parcel which when opened revealed the content that disturbed the airport employees. **-BMB**

Women police parade marks bold International Women's Day

All-women contingents, self-defence displays and symbolic gestures highlight empowerment, recognition and growing leadership roles within Bengaluru's police force

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A special Women's Monthly Parade was held at the CAR Central Parade Ground on Friday to mark International Women's Day, during which the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner received a Guard of Honour from an all-women contingent. In a first

for the force's ceremonial parade, a woman police officer drove the Commissioner's escort van as part of the Guard of Honour procession.

The parade was commanded by Mohammed Sujith M S, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South-East Division, while Reena Suvarna, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Whitefield Sub-Division, served as Assistant Parade Commander. All participating contingents comprised women police personnel.



A special Women's Monthly Parade was held at the CAR Central Parade Ground on Friday to mark Women's Day

During the event, Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh presented

commendation certificates to 60 women officers and staff members in recognition of their distinguished service. The awardees included Assistant Commissioners of Police, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables, Constables, ministerial staff, Home Guards and a sanitation staff member. It was also noted during the parade that a woman officer drove the Commissioner's escort van as part of the Guard of Honour ceremonial procession. The arrangement was made as a symbolic gesture during the Women's Day parade, highlighting the breaking of barriers and the growing role of women in the police force. A self-defence demonstration by

the "Rani Chennamma Squad," a special team of women police personnel, showcased martial arts skills including tile-breaking with fists and high kicks to break earthen pots placed about eight feet high. The event also featured 100 auto-rickshaws provided earlier to women drivers under the Parihar initiative. Additionally, TVS Motor Company handed over two-wheelers to support police duties. Senior officers including the Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime), Joint Commissioners for Administration, East, West and Traffic, Deputy Commissioners of Police from all divisions, other officials, and media representatives attended the ceremony.



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Trees on pvt, defence land yet to be counted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(more than 2 lakh) have been counted in Bengaluru West, followed by nearly 1.5 lakh trees in RR Nagar and nearly 1 lakh in Yelahanka.

"Given progress made so far, we are anticipating that the process will take another couple of months. Following the enumeration of trees in private lands and defence campuses, GBA will need to conduct an exercise to ensure that the enumeration has been done as per the process. We will correlate the census map with satellite data to cross-verify it. This will take some time," added the official.

Notably, the census was to be completed by March 2026, following GBA missing multiple deadlines before this.

While the Karnataka High Court ordered BBMP to start Bengaluru's tree census in 2019, on-ground work began in February 2024, after a delay of nearly five years. The first deadline for the enumeration of Bengaluru's trees was set as August 2024, which was then moved to November of that year. However, the completion date was then shifted to March 2025, followed by December 2025. However, since the project could not be completed, the deadline was then moved to March 2026.

Enforcement backed awareness drive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The instructional-style campaign featured road safety expert Dr G Gururaj, explaining how even small increases in speed significantly raise the risk and severity of crashes. The message aimed to instil concern about speeding and motivate compliance with posted limits.

The campaign had extensive outreach — aired across 12 television channels, screened in 500 cinema theatres, displayed on over 200 roadside billboards, carried as advertisements in one in five national and local dailies, and broadcast on eight satellite radio channels. The WHO Collaborating Centre at NIMHANS conducted a comprehensive pre- and post-campaign evaluation.

The triangulation study adopted a multi-source data approach, analysing road user behaviour, enforcement data, observational speed studies by NIMHANS and the Johns Hopkins Injury Prevention Unit, and violation and crash data from the Karnataka State Police. The findings compared pre- and

post-campaign data to assess the effectiveness of pairing communication with enforcement.

In Bengaluru city, average speeds dropped from 45.91 kmph to 36.56 kmph, a reduction of 9.4 kmph. The proportion of vehicles speeding declined from 6.41% pre-campaign to 5.99% post-campaign.

Fatalities decreased by 13 during the study period, indicating that crashes at lower speeds were less likely to be fatal.

Dr. Gautham M Sukumar, Professor - Department of Epidemiology, Centre for Public Health, Head- WHO Collaborating Center for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, NIMHANS, said, "Post-campaign knowledge of speed limits increased significantly, from 25.8% in 2024 to 30% in 2025—a rise of 4.2 percentage points, which means that the message has been drilled down into a significant section of road users and that indirectly will prevent these lives on the road. The government has to continue and sustain this method of implementing mass media campaigns that are tested and

coupled with strong enforcement and evaluate for improvement in planning, financing and monitoring road safety interventions."

Public recall and behavioural impact were also notable. Around 42% of respondents remembered the campaign messages. Among riders who saw the campaign, 47% reported always following speed limits in the previous two months, compared to

“We strongly believe that the media narrative helps us in traffic management and road safety enforcement...”

just 4% among those who did not recall the campaign. After viewing the campaign, 93% of drivers said they felt more concerned about speeding and 93% reported being motivated to adhere to speed limits.

The campaign also sparked wider public conversation. Nearly 32% of respondents discussed the advertisement with others, while 38% said they

actively tried to persuade others not to speed.

Enforcement data reflected heightened action during the campaign period. Speeding violations recorded across Karnataka rose from 49,717 to 55,311, while fines collected increased by 11%, indicating intensified enforcement efforts alongside the awareness drive.

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), said, "We strongly believe that the media narrative helps us in traffic management and road safety enforcement. I observed how consistently media reporting on the death trap - Bengaluru-Mysuru highway - forced a systemic change and brought about strategic evidence-based interventions that drastically reduced deaths and injuries on this corridor in 2023.

Media campaigns amplify our job of saving lives on the road through enforcement. BTP continues to work towards reducing deaths and injuries, specifically of two-wheeler users since the data shows they are at highest risk."

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GOURI RANI, W/o Amarjeet Mitra, residing at B-202, Coronet Greens Apartment, Sarjapur Road, Bellandur, Bengaluru - 560103, have changed my name to GAUREERANI and shall hereafter be known as GAUREERANI for all purposes.

I, James Ahmed Mazumder s/o Mizazur Rahman Mazumder R/O no 238 13th crs Hegganahalli B'lore 91Have changed my name James Ahmed Mozumder s/o Mizazur Rahman Mozumder to James Ahmed Mazumder s/o Mizazur Rahman Mazumder for all future purposes.

I, Trishul Vijayakumar Pramila, son of Vijayakumar Karehalli Puttabyrappa, residing at 66 B, 2nd Cross, 2nd Block, Somanna Garden, Vidyanayapura, Bengaluru 560097, declare that I have expanded my initials from Trishul V P, and that Trishul V P, V P Trishul, and Trishul Vijayakumar Pramila are one and the same person vide affidavit dated March 3, 2026, sworn before Notary G. HEMALATHA, Bengaluru.

I, Ayesha Noorullah, have changed my name to Revathi Natarajan for all Official Purposes.

I, BHARATHI G S, Residing at No 114, 19th Main, Near Rajarajeshwari Temple, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076, Have changed my name to G S BHARATHI GOPAL vide affidavit dated 06/03/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Nirmala Jain Alias Nirmala, R/O Pancharatna Apartment, No. 12, 3rd Floor, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, Bull Temple Road cross, Kempegowda Nagar, Bengaluru - 560019. Have changed my name to Nirmala Jain, vide affidavit dated 05/03/2026, sworn before Notary Mamatha N.K, Bangalore.

I YASHAVANTHA SHETTY, S/o, Sanjeeva Shetty Kundadka, Residing at, No 290, 2nd Floor, KHB colony, 17th E main, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru 560095, have changed my name to YASHAVANTH SHETTY, for all purposes.

I, NAVEEN B, R/at #. 1007/10, 1St Floor, 2nd Main, Maruthi Circle, Hanumanth Nagar, Gavipuram Extension, B'lore-19, I Have changed to NAVEEN B SIRVI vide Aff dtd 05.03.2026, sworn before Notary DEVARAJA. E, B'lore.

I SHILPA S w/o. MADAN SINGH Resident of #D106, Rohan Mihra Apartments, Next to AECS Layout Block A, Chinnapanahalli, Bengaluru 560037. I state That I have changed my Name from SHILPA to SHILPA S vide affidavit dated 05/03/2026 sworn before INDIRA S.S. Notary Public at Bengaluru.



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I, Jha Adityanath S/o, Arun Kumar Jha R/o 402, sharini, 4th Cross Right, Alfa Garden, kr Puram, Bangalore-560036 have changed my name to Jha Adityanath Arun for all purposes.

I, Kalavathi Jain W/o Ashok Kumar Jain R/o #2063, 6th Floor, Tower 2, Prestige West Woods, Minerva Mills Compound, Magadi Rd, B'lore-560023 have changed my name to Kalavathi for all purposes

I Kamalika Sarkar W/O, Subrata Bhowmik R/o 4b-202, Provident Park Square, Thallaghatapura, Judicial Layout, Bangalore -560109 have changed my name to Kamalika Sarkar Bhowmik.

I, Akbar Pasha Mohammed Dastagir Sab S/o Mohammed Dastagir Sab R/o #200, Gowrenahalli Village, sidhosakote post Anekal Taluk B'luru-562106 have changed my name to Akbar Pasha.

I K B Latha W/o H. N. Jagadish R/o 1559/6, Srinatraka B Block, 9th Main, Sahakar Nagar, B'luru-560092 declare that name of my father recorded as Late. Kolar Bhimarao in my PAN CARD AND PASSPORT. The Actual name of my father is Kallamballi Bheemaroo and same has to be recorded and change in my PAN CARD (A C R P K 2674 H) AND PASSPORT (P4594729)

I Mallanna shivanna s/o shivanna, #66 Bagaluru main road Yelahanka Bengaluru 560064, I changed my name to Mallanna

I Jagadamba Narayanaswamy R/o 135 Manjunatha Nilaya 7th cross Teachers colony Nagarbhavi Bengaluru-72 Have changed my name to Jagadamba Bayanna.

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APR: 24*, 26 MAY: 1, 3*, 8* 17, 24* JUNE: 1, 8*, 15, 22*, 24, JULY: 1*

CHAR DHAM YATRA 19 DAYS MAY: 6, 9, 12, 16, 24, 27, 31

ASSAM MEGALAYA/ARUNACHAL* 13/19* DAYS MAR: 27 APR: 10, 17

AGRA MATHURA JAIPUR DELHI 11 DAYS APR: 8 MAY 6

KASHI NAIMISHARANYA CHITRAKOOT 15 DAYS

APR: 1, 13, 29 MAY: 7, 13, 27

LADAKH 8/6* DAYS JUNE: 1, 3*, 10, 12*, 20, 22*

VAISHNODEVI/AMARNATH SPECIAL 14/8*/6 DAYS**

JUNE: 25, 27, 28*, 29, 30** JULY: 1, 2*, 2**, 3, 4*, 4** 5, 6*, 6**, 7, 8*, 8**

8-3-2026 00nd 8 ದಿನಗಳ ಪ್ರವಾಸ
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ಸಿಂಗಾಪೂರ್ | ಮಲೇಷಿಯಾ

ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರುರಾಜ ಛಾವೇಳ್ಕೆ (೦)
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'Do we need permission from US?'

Congress questions Centre over sovereignty as Washington allows 30-day waiver to buy Russian oil

Congress MP Manish Tewari on Friday questioned the Centre over sovereignty as the United States allowed a 30-day waiver for India to purchase Russian oil amid a crisis in the Gulf hampering shipping routes that pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Thursday (local time) announced that the short-term measure to counter Iran during the conflict in West Asia, which has severely affected the Gulf countries supplying crude oil.

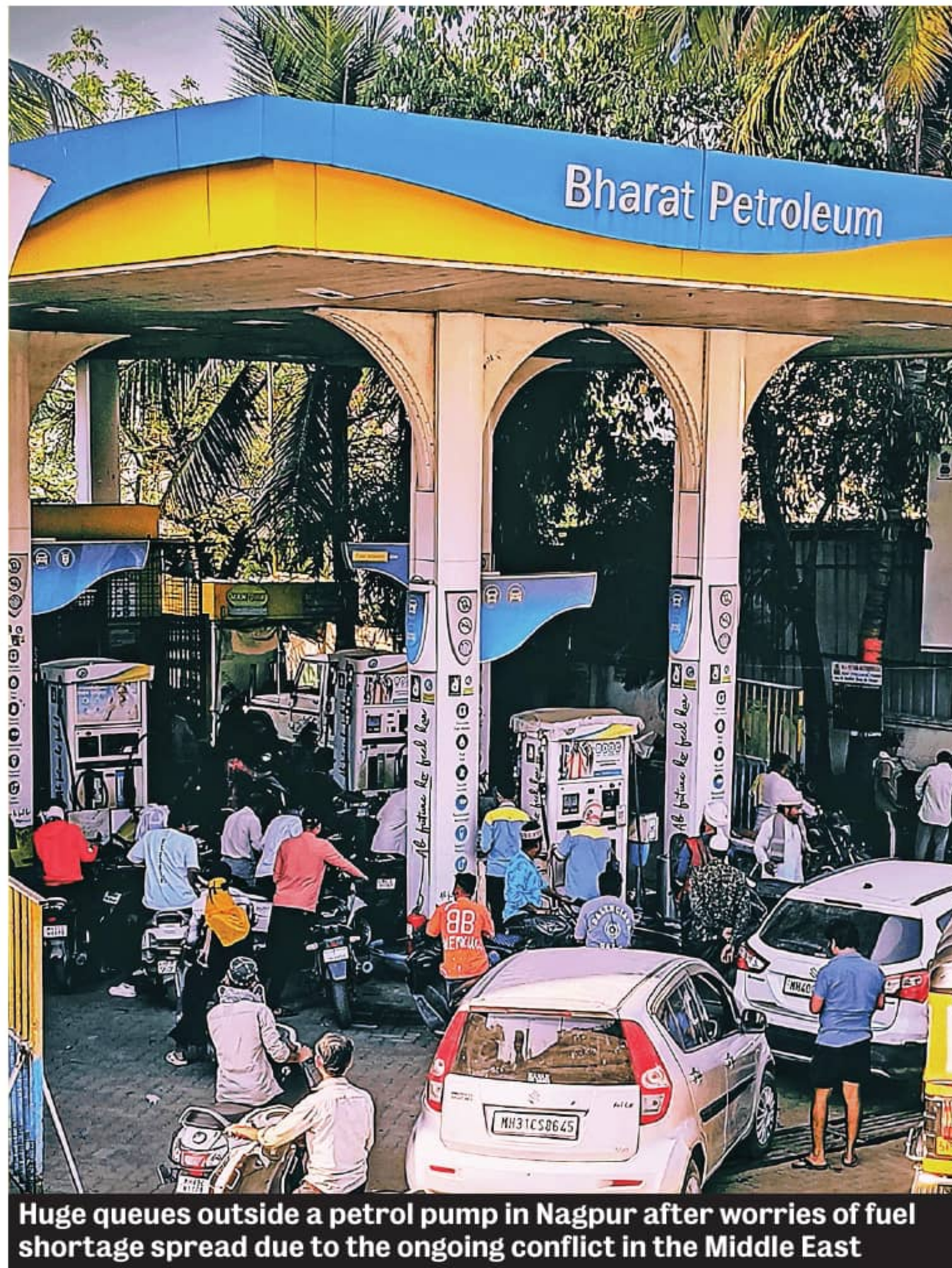
In an X post, Tewari asked if India required permission from the US to decide on its energy sources.

Slamming the US for its "neo-imperial arrogance," the Congress leader wrote, "Issuing a 30-day waiver'- The sanctimonious language of condensation drips with neo-imperial arrogance. Are we a banana republic that we need the permission of the US to secure our energy security imperatives?"

Questioning New Delhi's "silence" on the US' statement, he added, "The silence of an otherwise overly loquacious government is deafening. Does it not understand what sovereignty means?"

Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged that the BJP in the Centre has compromised India's sovereignty.

"India's independence and sovereignty are compromised every day by the BJP Government. Why does India need 'US permission' to protect its energy interests to buy Oil from Russia, more so in view of escalating Oil Prices and the Strait of Hormuz shutdown? The US will announce Ceasefire during Operation Sindoor. The US will direct India not to buy Iranian Oil. The US will direct India not to buy Russian



Huge queues outside a petrol pump in Nagpur after worries of fuel shortage spread due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East

Oil and impose sanctions till Modi Govt buckled and said it will not buy Russian Oil. The US will now give permission to the Modi govt to buy Russian Oil for a window of 30 days? The US will first announce the 'framework trade agreement' with India. Is there a govt in Delhi?" Surjewala said on X.

As India and the US announced the trade deal framework, Washing-

ton said that New Delhi has agreed not to buy oil from Russia.

Congress MP's remarks followed the US Treasury Secretary's X post, where he announced that the department has issued a 30-day waiver allowing India to purchase Russian oil to enable oil flow into the global market.

Washington said that it expects New Delhi to "ramp up" purchases

of US oil after this short-term waiver.

"President Trump's energy agenda has resulted in oil and gas production reaching the highest levels ever recorded. To enable oil to keep flowing into the global market, the Treasury Department is issuing a temporary 30-day waiver to allow Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil. This deliberately short-term measure will not provide significant financial benefit to the Russian government as it only authorises transactions involving oil already stranded at sea. India is an essential partner of the United States, and we fully anticipate that New Delhi will ramp up purchases of US oil. This stop-gap measure will alleviate pressure caused by Iran's attempt

As India and the US announced a trade deal framework, Washington had said New Delhi agreed not to buy oil from Russia

to take global energy hostage," US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent wrote on X.

Indian ceramic and fertiliser industries are expected to be affected by the hampering of the energy supply due to dependence on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Meanwhile, the conflict in West Asia has entered its seventh day following the US and Israeli strikes on Iran that killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, along with other key figures in the Persian Gulf country on February 28. In retaliation, Tehran has responded with counter-strikes targeting American military bases and other Israeli assets across the region. —ANI

Missile fire in tense skies hinders rescue flights as airspaces open

Emirati airlines resumed some flights to global cities from the war-hit Gulf on Friday, but a Lufthansa jet that was headed to the region diverted over safety fears and an Air France repatriation flight was forced to turn back due to missile fire.

The outbreak of the U.S.-Israel war against Iran has led to flight cancellations across the Middle East, leaving airlines and governments scrambling to support thousands of stranded passengers. Shares in carriers from New Zealand to Japan have slid meanwhile, as the conflict drives up fuel prices.

Passengers have paid huge sums to get out of the Middle East, with last-minute dashes to the airport, overland trips to less impacted hubs and fighter jets at times escorting passenger planes out. Some described it as "absolute chaos".

With most airspace in the region still closed over missile and drone concerns, some people with

Passengers have paid huge sums to get out of the region, with dashes to the airport, overland trips to less impacted hubs

deep pockets have turned to private jets while charter flights and limited commercial services struggle to evacuate tens of thousands of travellers. A Lufthansa flight to Saudi capital Riyadh diverted to Cairo on Friday over safety concerns after a similar move by an Air France flight late on Thursday.

"(It) reflects the instability in the region and the complexity of repatriation operations," French Transport Minister Philippe Tabarot said.

Britain's first repatriation flight from Oman landed at London's Stansted Airport early on Friday after delays. Similar repatriation flights arrived or were due to arrive

back in countries from Poland to Portugal.

Air traffic vulnerability

With the conflict showing little sign of easing, wider aviation and air cargo disruption looked set to linger.

While major carrier Emirates said on Friday it was targeting "a return to 100% of its network" in the coming days, EU aviation regulator EASA extended a warning about high risks until March 11.

Lufthansa on Friday flagged an uncertain outlook despite better-than-expected results. "The war in the Middle East proves once again how exposed air traffic is, and how vulnerable it remains," its CEO Carsten Spohr said.

The limited operations at Middle Eastern hubs have hit travellers on routes from Europe to the Asia-Pacific region particularly hard.

Combined, Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad normally fly



A fighter jet takes off from the U.K.'s RAF Akrotiri air base near Limassol, Cyprus, Friday

about one-third of passengers from Europe to Asia and more than half of all passengers from Europe to Australia, New Zealand and nearby Pacific Islands, according to Cirium data. As of Thursday, traffic at Dubai's DXB airport, normally the world's busiest international travel hub, had almost doubled from Wednesday, but remained only about 25% of normal levels, flight-tracking website Flightradar24 said.

Abu Dhabi-based Etihad said on Friday it would resume a limited flight schedule through March 19, with flights operating to and from Abu Dhabi and around 70 destinations including London, Paris, Frankfurt, Delhi, New York, Toronto and Tel Aviv. —Reuters

WAR UPDATES

RBI steps up support to financial markets

India's central bank said on Friday it would conduct open-market purchase auctions of government securities worth 1 trillion rupees (\$10.88 billion) in two tranches next week, as it steps up support for the currency and bond markets amid an escalating Middle East crisis. The war between Iran and U.S.-Israel has pushed up oil prices and sparked a rush towards safe-haven assets like the U.S. dollar. The Indian rupee fell to a record low this week, prompting heavy intervention by the Reserve Bank of India, while bond yields rose nearly 3 basis points.

Dollar sales, estimated by traders at over \$12 billion, will reduce rupee liquidity and push up interest rates. To counter that, the central bank has announced open market bond purchases. The RBI will purchase seven government securities in two tranches of 500 billion rupees each, it said. Reuters

Windies remain stranded; SA players likely to leave

West Indies players remained stranded in Kolkata for the fifth straight day after their exit from the T20 World Cup as international airspace restrictions triggered by the US and Israeli strikes continued to disrupt travel plans. While a charter flight has been arranged for the Caribbean side to return home, the local sources said the final air traffic approvals are awaited.

"WI & SA both teams' departure details still awaited," a Cricket Association of Bengal official told PTI.

However, the official said four South Africa players are likely to depart for New Zealand on Friday night for an upcoming bilateral series.

"Four SA players might leave for NZ tonight... formal details awaited," the official added. The Windies were knocked out of the T20 World Cup after India defeated them on Sunday. PTI

Sensex, Nifty tumble over 1%

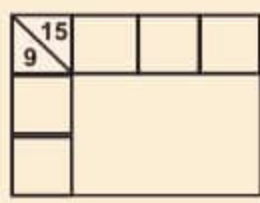
Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled over 1 per cent on Friday after a day's breather as the conflict in the Middle East entered the seventh day, driving crude oil prices higher.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,097 points, or 1.37 per cent, to settle at 78,918.90. During the day, it sank 1,203.72 points, or 1.50 per cent, to 78,812.18. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 315.45 points, or 1.27 per cent, to end at 24,450.45.

Weakness in the US equities, subdued trend in European markets and foreign fund outflows also dampened investor sentiment, analysts said. From the Sensex pack, Eterna, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, and Larsen & Toubro were among the laggards. Bharat Electronics, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Infosys, and HCL Tech were the gainers. PTI

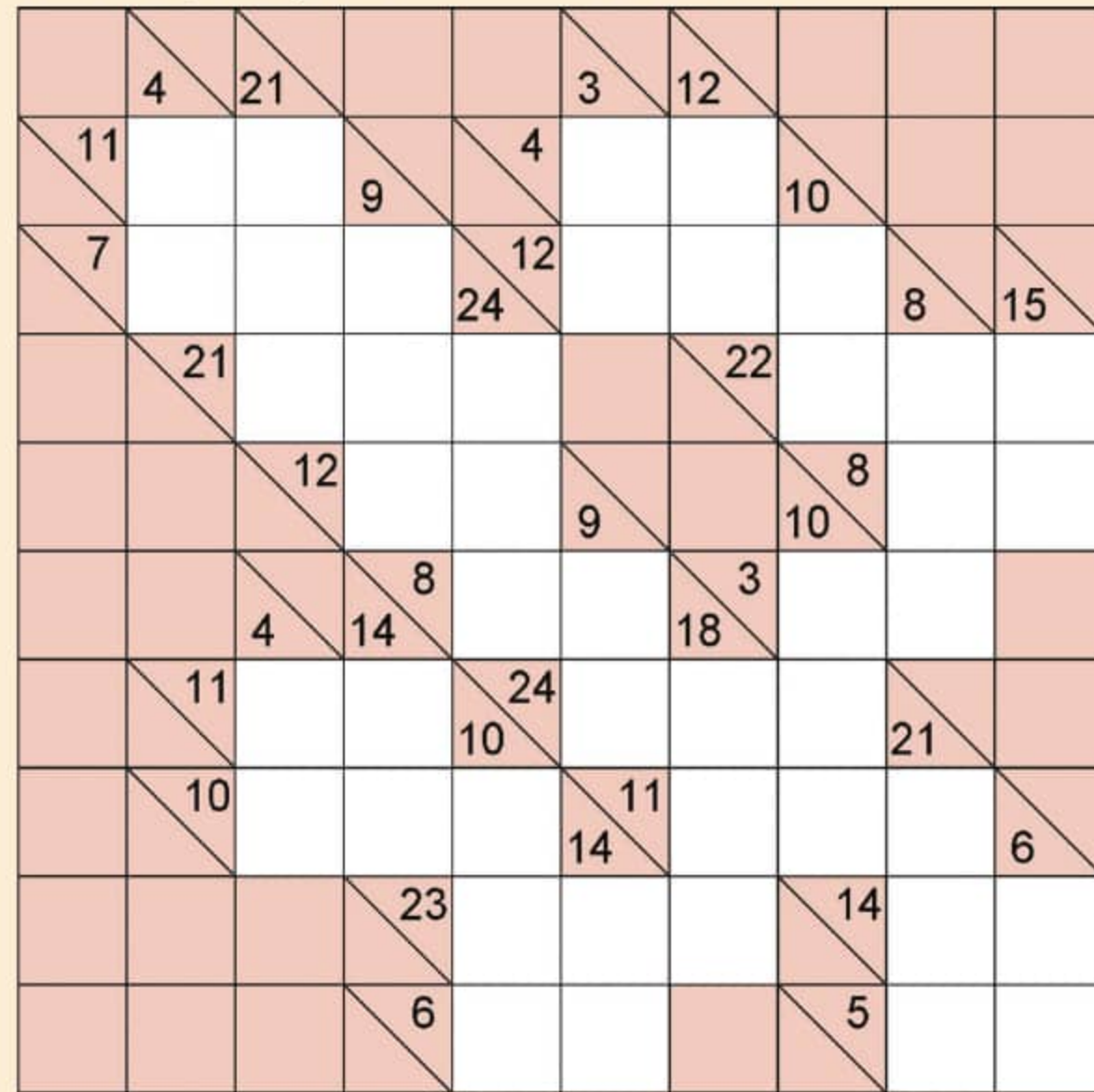
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

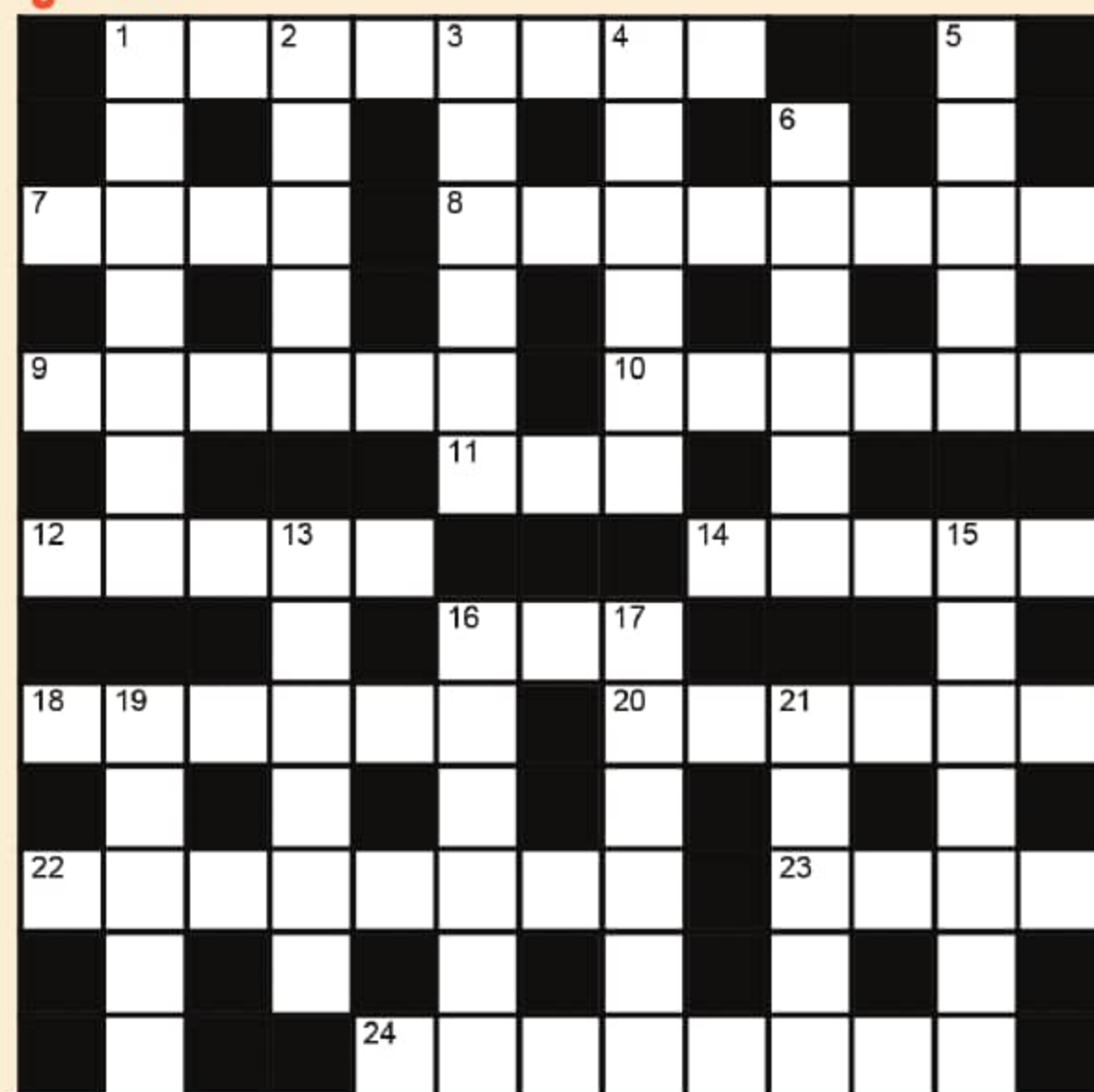


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Speaks in a low tone (8)
- 7 Thought (4)
- 8 Cause to exist, beget (8)
- 9 Using a keyboard (6)
- 10 Looks after the sick (6)
- 11 Superlative suffix (3)
- 12 Go with the flow (5)
- 14 Mr.Boycott of cricket (5)
- 16 Tax deducted at source, in short (3)
- 18 Sound system (6)
- 20 Riddles or enigmas (6)
- 22 Major south Indian river (8)
- 23 Slender (4)
- 24 Well in the past (8)

DOWN

- 1 Dynasty which ruled the Kingdom of Mysore from 1399 to 1947 (7)
- 2 A man from Teheran? (5)
- 3 Solemn promise (6)
- 4 Young king's deputy (6)
- 5 Ms Witherspoon of Hollywood (5)
- 6 False (6)
- 13 Lay-out, arrangement (6)
- 15 Pardon (7)
- 16 Ketchup is made from it (6)
- 17 Elf or fairy (6)
- 19 Plucked string sound (5)
- 21 Artillery volley (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS W
SZI NWJI KPOUXKSXPO SZLS BI
KPWFV XM BI BLOSIF SP XN SZI
JILNPO NP GLOH APPF GXOFN
LJI XFVI.



Linemaro

You must be the square root of two 'cause I feel irrational around you



Mindchow

In Art, man reveals himself and not his objects



Joke of the day

What is an insect's favourite sport? Cricket!

Loop

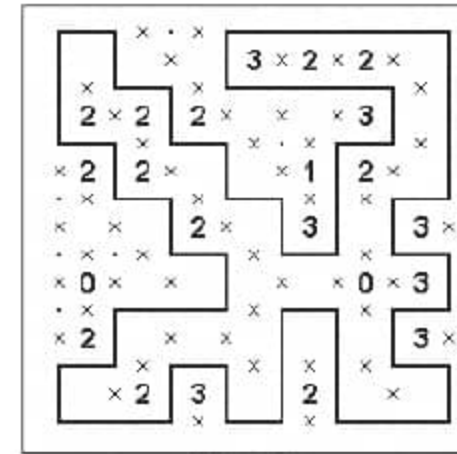
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

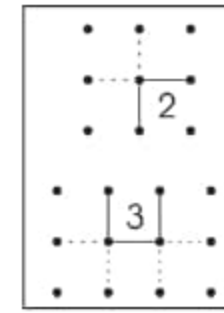
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

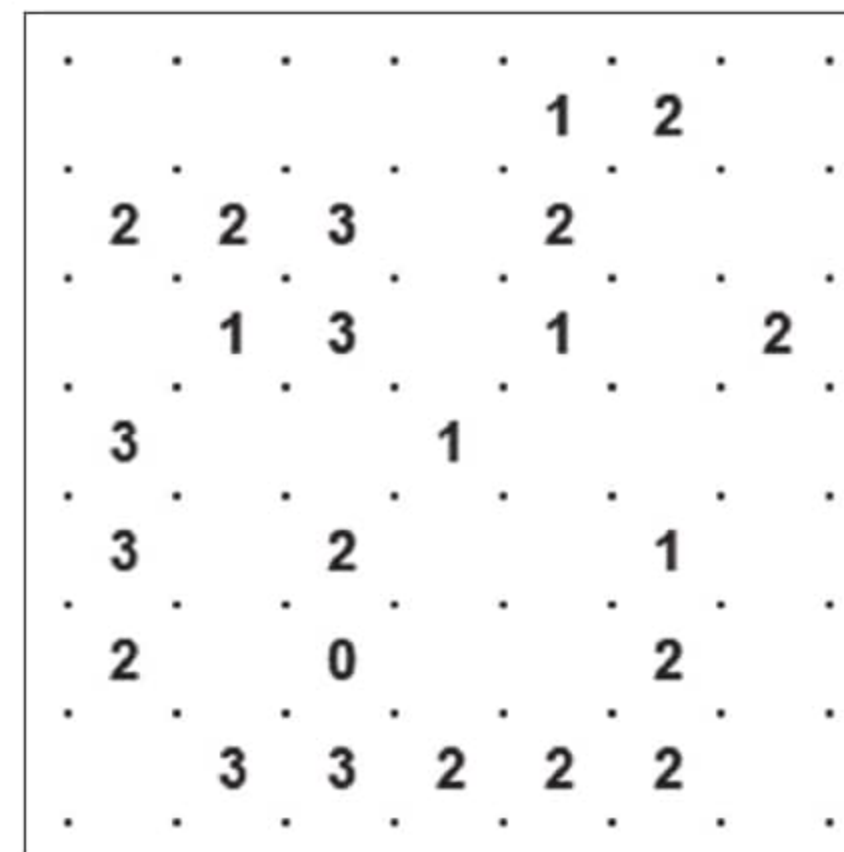
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



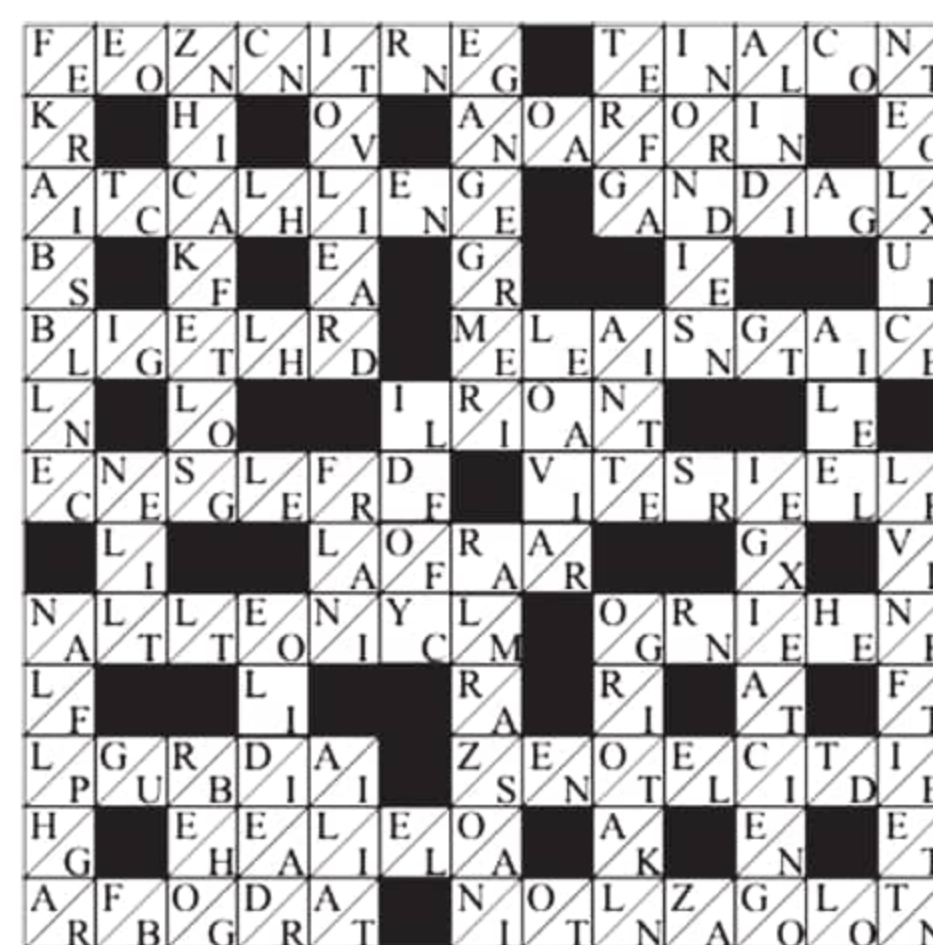
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



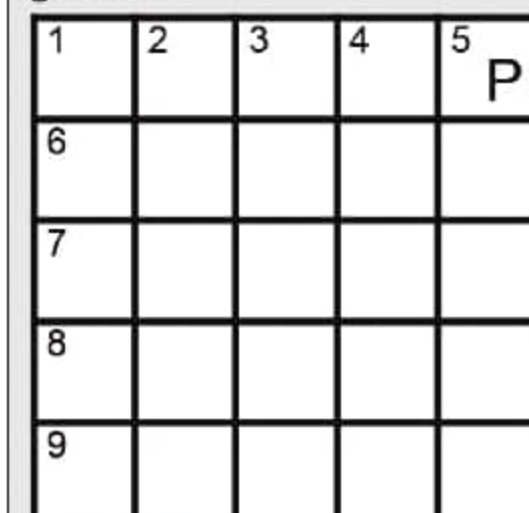
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

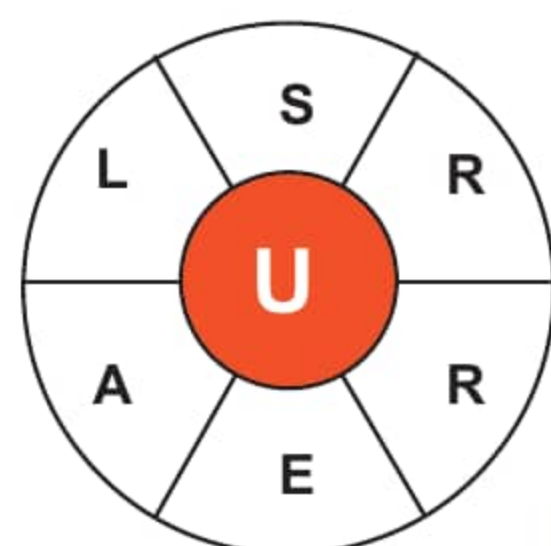
- 1 Claps; 6 Poet E;
- 7 Years; 8 Op art;
- 9 On dun

DOWN

- 1 Sated; 2 Coy up;
- 3 No par; 4 Renal;
- 5 Poets

Mensapuzzle

Which number fills the empty circle?

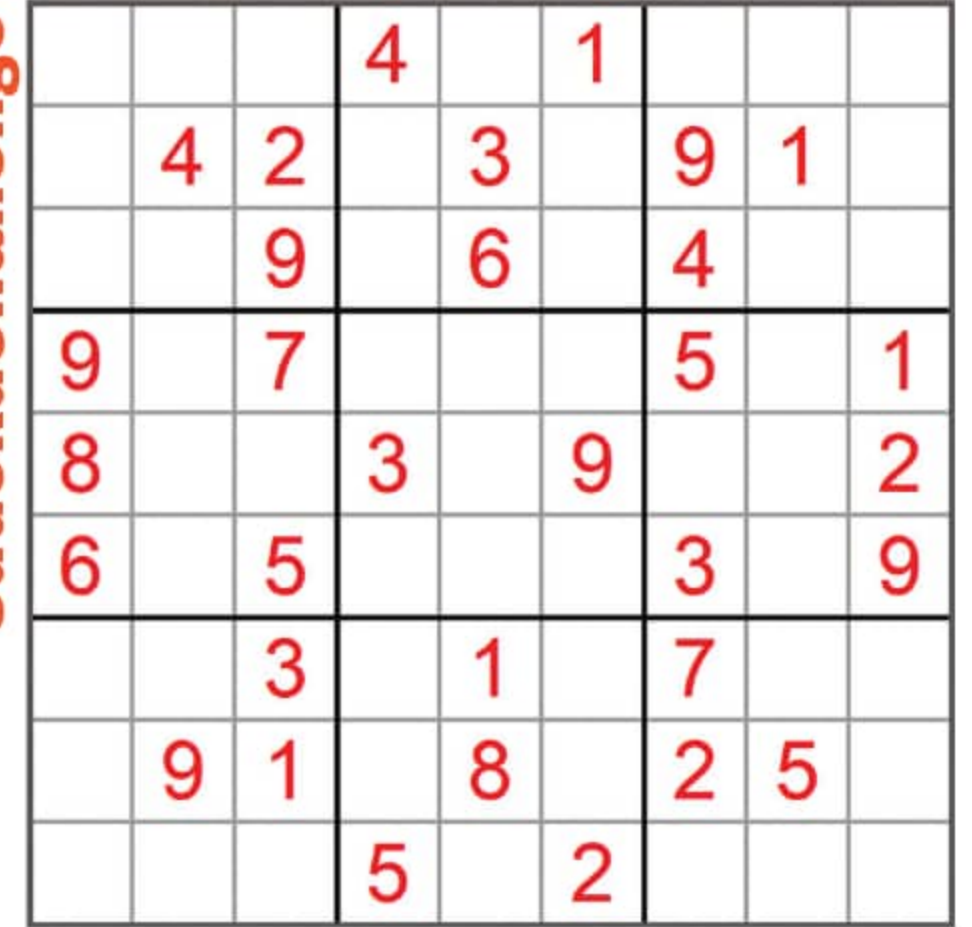


Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; 09 Good; 11 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

= 9

= 14

Medium

= 14

= 11

Hard

= 11

= 11

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Woman's foot is moved. 2. Stir stick is moved. 3. Paint drip is lower. 4. Roller is different. 5. Pocket is higher. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

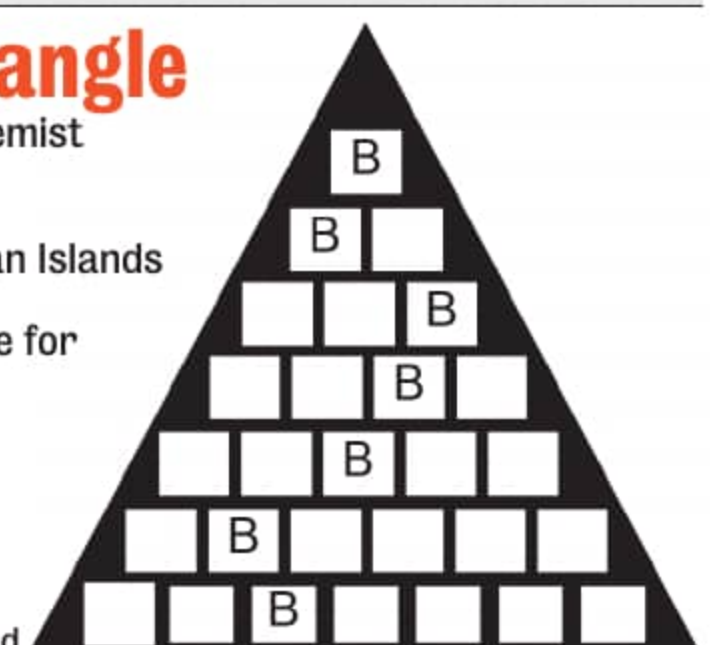
Riddler

What do you call a person who isn't allowed to have chocolate?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Boron for the chemist
- 2 Bushel, abbr.
- 3 Young animal
- 4 One of the Visayan Islands
- 5 Diced
- 6 Advance evidence for
- 7 Corrupt

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

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Kylaq



Kodiah



Slavia

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